implemented in Allahabad at a cost of Rs. 30.12 crore. A sewage treatment capacity of 60 million litres per day (mld) has been created in the town. Similarly, in the same phase a sewage treatment capacity of 102 mld has been created at Varanasi. As a result of these works, there is an improvement in the river water quality at both Allahabad and Varanasi. The bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD) in the river at Allahabad and Varanasi, which is an indicator of pollution, was in the range of 10.1 to 15.5 milligram per litre(mg/l) in 1986 before the start of the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I. This range has improved to 2.5 to 3.8 mg/l in 2002 against the desired standard of 3 mg/l. However, as the present generation of sewage has increased significantly due to increase in population since the implementation of Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, a significant quantity of un-treated sewage is still being discharged into Ganga at both these towns. The works for tackling the remaining pollution load would be taken up in phases in Ganga Action Plan Phase-II, which is under implementation.

The water quality of Ganga at Sangam, Allahabad deteriorated in January and February, 2003 due to coloured discharged of partly treated and partly untreated industrial effluents of distilleries and agro-based industries upstream of Kanpur. After the intervention of the Ventral Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Board, discharge of these effluents was stopped in early March, 2003. The Uttar Peadesh Pollution Control Board has been directed to take action against the defaulting industrial units and to ensure that such industries do not discharge effluents into the river during non-monsoon months and release such effuents after complying with the prescribed discharged standards during monsoon season only.

**Prevention of sugarcane pest**

*599. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD :

SHRI EKNATH K. THAKUR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Centre has alerted 16 sugarcane growing States on the outbreak of aphid attack and asked for village level monitoring and feedback to ensure effective plant protection and to take preventive measures;

(b) if so, whether an area of 1.32 lakh hectares of sugarcane crop in Maharashtra and 0.87 hectares in Karnataka were found infested by the aphid pest;

(c) whether any Central team has visited these States in March, 2003;

(d) if so, whether the team has submitted any report; and

(e) if so, what preventive measures Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Sixteen sugarcane growing States have been alerted on the spread of woolly aphids on sugarcane. Areas affected in Maharashtra and Karnataka States are 1.32 lakh hectare and 0.87 lakh hectare, respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, From March 3rd to 6th, 2003, a Central team visited sugarcane woolly aphid infested areas of Maharashtra and Karnataka States to study the impact of infestation and future course of action required to control the menace of woolly aphids. The team has submitted its report.

(e) The Government has taken following measures to control white woolly aphids in sugarcane in the country :—

(i) the recommendations of the Central Team including the Short Term and Long Term strategy on measures to control the infestation of white woolly Aphid and to prevent further outbreaks have been circulated to the State Governments concerned as well as to State Agricultural Universities.

(ii) Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage has been asked to conduct IPM demonstration in the affected areas to increase awareness amongst the sugarcane farmers on the management of White Woolly Aphid.

(iii) The State Governments have been advised to ensure regular monitoring of the White Woolly Aphid Pest through increased surveillance. The IPM strategy on sugarcane has also been circulated for its adoption to the concerned States Governments.

(iv) States have been advised to take timely plant protection measures to prevent further spread of this pest. The scientists from Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Agricultural Universities are helping the State Department of Agriculture and they are extending their guidance to tackle the menace of woolly aphids.